

HB 1138 -- CHILD SUPPORT

SPONSOR: Rowland

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass by Consent" by the Committee on Higher Education by a vote of 14 to 0.

This bill specifies that in order to remain eligible for child support, a child enrolled in at least 12 hours of credit at a postsecondary school of instruction must complete at least 12 hours of credit with passing grades each semester. Currently, the law only requires the child to complete 12 hours of credit.

If the child does not complete 12 hours of credit with passing grades and the court does not find that extenuating circumstances caused the failure to complete the required credit hours with passing grades, the payment of child support must be terminated.

Payment of child support must terminate if the child fails to produce documentation of the child's grades to the noncustodial parent within 30 days.

A child who is employed at least 15 hours per week during the semester must complete at least nine hours of credit with passing grades during the semester in order to remain eligible for child support.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill clarifies a self-contradictory statute. It lets a judge determine extenuating circumstances rather than trying to list every possibility.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Rowland.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.